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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/762,649	04/09/2001	Wolfgang Neifer	7904.0029	7819
22852	7590	02/13/2003		
FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW, GARRETT & DUNNER LLP 1300 I STREET, NW WASHINGTON, DC 20006			EXAMINER	
			ST CYR, DANIEL	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		2876		

DATE MAILED: 02/13/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/762,649	NEIFER, WOLFGANG
	Examiner Daniel St.Cyr	Art Unit 2876

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 January 2003.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
 If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 1/27/03 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mathurin, Jr., US Patent No. 5,473,144 in view of Ishii, US patent No. 5,768,389.

Mathurin, Jr. discloses a credit card with digitized fingerprint and reading apparatus comprising: a credit card finger print reading apparatus 10 on top of a table 28 exhibiting a credit card 12 containing therein an actual and/or digitized finger print of an authorized credit card holder being scanned by the apparatus 10 whereas the credit card is inserted in the credit card insertion slot 18. The apparatus 10 further exhibiting an access door 14 housing auxiliary power means 32 and a power on/off switch 16. The cardholder places his/her finger on the fingerprint-scanning screen 20 located on the angled front face 30 and the fingerprint is scanned by the finger print scanner 22. If the finger print scanned by the finger print scanner 22 and the finger

print scanned on the credit card do not match then the red indicator light 24 illuminates alerting the user that a fraudulent transaction is about to take place. If the green indicating light 26 illuminates, then the user is alerted that the card and card holder are valid (see figures 1-4; col. 14, line 43+).

Mathurin, Jr. fails to disclose or fairly suggests that a "chip card" formatted into a pc card and that the fingerprint sensor comprises an interface coupled with the chip card reader.

Ishii discloses a method and system for generation and management of secret key of public key cryptosystem comprising: a PC chip card 34/200 including personal ID 210 for uniquely identifying the user; a terminal 33; a network 32; and a server 31 (see figure 1, 13 and col. 11, line 20+).

In view of Ishii's teachings, it would have been obvious for an artisan at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Mathurin, Jr. by modifying the reader to read the well-known chip card, PC card and to provide network connection so that users could be verified by cross-referencing the acquired data from the user with the data stored in the card or having a remote database with the identification information therein to identify the users. Such modification would make the system more practical wherein users could be identified even if their information is damage or became unreadable from the card. Furthermore, such modification would allow the system to be configured in a way such that users could use their personal computer to verify and update information in the chip card, which would make the system more effective and more convenient for users to process and execute their credit transactions. Therefore, it would have been an obvious extension as taught by Mathurin.

Re claim 10, the specific connection of the component parts falls within the engineering design choice for providing certain ergonomic design or for minimizing the size of the system, failing to provide any unexpected results. Therefore, it would have been obvious for an ordinary artisan to couple the component parts in such way to achieve any ergonomic design combination.

Conclusion

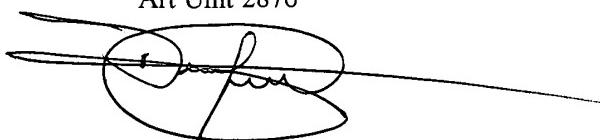
4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel St.Cyr whose telephone number is 703-305-2656. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G Lee can be reached on 703-305-3503. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-7721 for regular communications and 703-308-7724 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.

Daniel St.Cyr
Examiner
Art Unit 2876

DS
February 7, 2003

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel St.Cyr", is enclosed within a large, roughly circular oval. The oval is drawn with a single continuous line, with the ends of the line extending beyond the circle to form a tail on each side.